

Executive Column

Linda Haugan, Assistant Executive Officer



The state legislature completed their work on the state budget by their deadline for the third consecutive year in a row. And for a change there is not much bad news to report for Human Services departments.

In anticipation of Health Care Reform (HCR) implementation and Medi-Cal expansion, Transitional Assistance will get an increase in their allocation to hire staff. It also appears that Public Health and Behavioral Health will continue to get their current share of realignment funding to continue with mandated programs. In addition, under HCR, Foster Care children will continue their Medi-Cal coverage up to age 26.

In Home Supportive Services recipients will receive an 8% across the board reduction due the settlement of a court case which could have caused a 20% across the board decrease. But in a surprising move, CalWorks recipients will see a 5% increase in their grants effective March 1, 2014.

The Coordinated Care Initiative also referred to as the Dual Eligible pilot and Cal Medi Connect (really California, just pick a name), is being delayed again to January 1, 2014. You may recall it was delayed from a March 2013 to October 2013 in the May Revise.

For CalWorks, the budget added three major components to the program. These include the use of a new robust, standardized statewide tool for appraisals; enhanced case management to help remove barriers and stabilize families; and an expansion of the subsidized employment program. Acknowledging that recipients need a vehicle to get to work, the asset limit for vehicles will increase to \$9,500.

For the rest of the HS departments and programs the state budget left them pretty much status quo.

Unfortunately budget cuts at the federal level, known as sequestration will impact services in three HS departments. For the Department of Aging and Adult Services the loss of federal funding will reduce senior meals, respite care for family caregivers and other supportive services like legal, ombudsman, elder abuse prevention and senior employment.

Preschool Services will have to close two sites and reduce transportation services. Public Health will see significant reductions to the administrative portion of the Ryan White program which serves clients with HIV and AIDS.

We will continue to watch what happens at the federal level as debt ceiling and budget deadlines are again approaching. Never a dull moment as far as budget actions are concerned.

Until next time.....

**County of San Bernardino
Human Services**



HS Connection Newsletter